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**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #2 OF 2025 – Mid February

INTRODUCTION

The past month has been a doozy! The inauguration of Trump has resulted in strong views being expressed and dictatorial actions being taken that threaten peace and stability in the world. Mass deportations will not solve any of the problems facing America, nor will the imposition of massive tax increases on Americans, nor will threatening bluster cause the collapse of countries. They will, however, result in retaliation detrimental to the USA. Of particular concern to those of us in the map trade, the imposition of a 25% import tax on travel maps will make such products much more expensive for Americans. Borch, Gizi, Hema, IGN, ITMB, Marco Polo, Michelin, and Touring Club Italiano maps are all imported into the USA. These will all become significantly more expensive for Americans, but not for Canadians. Rand McNally maps are normally printed in the USA, so should not be affected by the import tax. National Geographic maps are potentially affected, depending upon whether or not they are printed in the USA, but they use imported plastic paper, so prices could be affected.

DO LUONG

It is with sadness that I note the passing of Lan's father, Do Luong at the age of 105. While it is an incredible accomplishment to have lived for so long, his health was failing gradually, and his death was somewhat expected. This does not lessen the emotional reaction for Lan or for our daughter Phuong, who was raised by her grandfather. Luong lived a life of action and participated in many of Vietnam's significant developments during and following WW2, starting as a guerilla fighter against the occupying Japanese. French Indochina was occupied by Japan after the defeat of France in 1940. Luong was a young man at the time, but spent the next five years hiding during the day and killing Japanese soldiers by night, in Haiphong. In 1945, he participated as a Vietnamese soldier in the retaking of Cat Ba Island from fanatical Japanese forces based at the northern edge of Ha Long Bay.

At the end of WW2, the northern half of what we now call Vietnam was occupied by Nationalist Chinese troops led by Chiang Kai Chek, which at that time was the official government of China while being locked into a fight to the death with Communist insurgents led by Mao Tse Tung. Do Luong then spent the next several years as a nationalist, fighting the Chinese until their withdrawal, and then the French, who replaced them. This culminated in his participation in the great battle held at Dien Bien Phu, a huge French military base on the Laotian border, in 1954. Although French Indochina had been divided into Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam by that point in time and all three entities were nominally independent, Ho Chi Minh's forces were determined to re-unify the entity under communist control. The battle decisively ended French involvement and resulted in a civil war inside Vietnam, with hundreds of thousands of Viet people fleeing for the south, or to the north, depending on their personal beliefs.

In 1954, the north and south of Vietnam could not agree on a path forward and devastating fighting broke out in 1956, eventually supported by the USA on one side and Russia/China on the other. Do Luong supported the north. Eventually, he was sent to Laos to develop the truck route to the south that became known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He spent 11 years in Laos, building the roadway, developing good relations with local Lao people, and maintaining the thousand-kilometer-long 'trail' as the head of a force of thousands of Vietnamese troops. After 1985, he retired and lived modestly in Hanoi.

He was also a loving father to Lan and her sisters, and a doting grandfather to Phuong and a dozen other grandchildren and great-grandchildren in both Vietnam and Canada. He was my father-in-law and while we found it difficult to communicate except through translators, I learned a lot about what really happened that he experienced from him. I visited with him the house in Haiphong where he spent his days hiding under the floorboards, the cave where his unit was surprised by French special services troops and he was one of two to survive, the battlefield of Dien Bien Phu, and other sites of significant importance. Most importantly, he encouraged Lan to emigrate to Canada for her own safety and took care of Phuong and protected her for years until it was possible to get Phuong to Vancouver. Lan is now our Head of Production and the driving force developing hundreds of maps for the world to enjoy and Phuong is our Administrative Manager in charge of just about everything. Her husband, Linh, is our General Manager in charge of sales. Do Luong would be proud.

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NEW TITLES

Lan and I spent the first week of February in Cuba, specifically on a tour of western Cuba that will be extremely useful in updating our map information for ITMB maps of Havana, western Cuba, and Cuba itself, as time passes. More immediately, we are pleased to announce the following new editions: **Fiji & Tonga, Geneva & Western Switzerland, and Uganda**. See the ordering details in **NEW RELEASES**.

VAT VERSUS GST VERSUS IMPORT TAX/TARIFFS

Most of the world uses progressive taxation as a revenue source. In Europe, each country imposes a Value Added Tax (VAT for short) on most goods entering their portion of the European Union. The tax rate varies from country to country but is commonly applied by each individual country. Britain operates its own system. The importer pays the tax and passes it on to whomsoever that importer sells the imported product to and claims a rebate on the difference between what he paid and what he sold it for. Canada uses a similar system, called Goods and Services Tax (or GST), which is 5% on every imported item. This tax is passed on to end users, with the exception being exports, which are not subject to GST. The system works fairly well and, while nobody likes being taxed, at least the tax is evenly applied. There are exceptions, such as goods sold on first nations reserves, but exceptions are few and far between. The USA does not have a national sales tax system. Instead, it has very recently announced a series of tariffs against a wide range of countries and all products from those countries. These tariffs, ranging from 25% to 100%, are an import tax, similar to GST, payable by Americans who import anything applicable. At the moment, there does not appear to be much clarity as to how this tax will operate in the USA and much rhetoric is being bandied about claiming this, that, or the other thing. The bottom line is that Americans will be paying more for just about everything from now on. As this tax grab is being portrayed as a punishment against other countries, these other countries are understandably upset about being unfairly targeted by the Trump administration.

This will definitely negatively impact the American economy, which is very dependent upon imports, but Trump's move will have a far greater political negative impact against American interests in the world. Country after country will impose counter-vailing tariffs on the entry of American products and Americans will find themselves subject to jeers and expressions of disgust for what their country is doing. The USA may be wealthy, but it has one huge weakness. It is completely dependent upon imports for its well-being. We are in for a rocky future of deteriorating good will towards the USA.

AUSTRALIA AS A TRAVEL DESTINATION

Australia has always been a popular travel destination, especially during the northern hemisphere's winter months. ITMB first published a map of the country under license in 1985, and has had its own original artwork detailing Australia since the mid-1990s. We also map each state and territory separately, and publish maps of Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane – 10 different maps in total. Here are a few tidbits that you might not know about Aussieland:

90% of the country's population live along, or very close to, the ocean.

The Indian Pacific Railway between Sydney and Perth has the world's longest straight stretch of track in the world

The Australian Alps receive more snow annually than the Swiss Alps

Fraser Island is made of sand and is the largest such island in the world

Australia has 10,685 beaches. It would take 29 years to enjoy all of them!

Several active volcanoes can be found in Australia

21 of the 25 most venomous snakes in the world are endemic to Australia. Some kill in minutes.

80% of the wildlife is unique to the continent, such as koala bears and kangaroos

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral 'plantation' in the world, so large that it can be seen from outer space

Geographically, Australia is the sixth-largest country in the world

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WHY DO WE TRAVEL?

The desire to explore the world seems to be of particular fondness for a large number of people, fortunately for those of us in the map trade. Whether one enjoys magnificent cathedrals or loves exploring exotic shops, visiting other countries is enervating. History is a prime motivator of travel, battlefields in particular (Gettysburg and Waterloo being but two examples). During the Napoleonic wars, Britain stood alone (or seemingly so) in opposing French dominance of Europe. One of Napoleon's many blunders was the invasion and occupation of Spain, which only resulted in tying up tens of thousands of troops in a protracted guerilla war. Britain, thanks to its ally Portugal, had a foothold on the continental landmass, but how would they invade Spain successfully? The French had two massive armies in western Spain, under two competent commanders, one north of the Tagus River, and the other south. To support each other, they needed to control a bridge over the river, which was at Almaraz. Three strong fortresses were created to ensure French control. Wellington needed to destroy this bridge before engaging with one of the two French armies. Major General Rowland Hill was despatched with 7,000 troops to take out these forts. Keep in mind that western Spain, in those days, had only a basic infrastructure with few roads. The British were able to blockade one of the forts, but the other two had to be taken by men with muskets. The fort on the south shore of the Tagus was successfully captured and its guns turned on the northern fort, which soon surrendered. The pontoon bridge across the river was subsequently destroyed, leaving no way for French forces to meet. The way was now clear for the British to move into Spain and eventually liberate Spain. The bridge at Almaraz, as well as the ruins of the three forts, remain to this day and can be visited on a day trip from Toledo or Talavera..

THE MOST POPULAR NATIONAL PARK IN THE WORLD

Can you guess what is the most visited national park in the world? Is it the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, or Banff? Sorry, but all North American national parks fade into the background in comparison to Tatras Mountains National Park in Poland, with its 4.9 million visitors during 2024. The reason is that it is so popular rests in its year-round nature. In winter, it is a very good ski area, and in summer an excellent hiking area, with lots of rustic accommodations. Need a map?

CUBA IN 2025

Cuba is a lovely country, warm and friendly. The USA seems to have an obsession with punishing Cuba, but it is the only country in the world to do so. Needless to say, this makes life a bit difficult for Cubans, only 90 miles away from Miami. Americans are not allowed to enter Cuba as tourists, but are allowed in to "show support for the Cuban people". Lan and I recently spent 10 days in the country on a guided tour of the western half of the island country. I was amazed to discover that there are 10 flights per day to Havana by a variety of US airlines from Miami, and dozens of flights each day from Mexico, Latin America, Canada, and Europe. Havana's airport, built by Canada in 1998, is bursting at the seams trying to cope with thousands of 'supporters' arriving every day. Our tour concentrated on Havana itself, a city slowly emerging from the turmoil caused by American hostility, on Vinales, a mountain eco-town in the far west of the island, a visit to the infamous Bay of Piga (Bahia des Cochinos), an overnight in Cienfuegos, and two days in Trinidad, both on the south coast, followed by a visit to Santa Clara in the interior. Much though it would have been nice to visit more easterly parts of the island nation, we travelled over enough of the island to gain a good impression of what life is like in Cuba.

First, 'old' Havana is being fixed up one block at a time and a lot of improvements have been made since our last visit in 2016. Restaurants are common, food is reasonably available, dozens of hotels and guest houses deal with the increasing tourism (oops, sorry, I meant 'supporters') flooding the streets. Second, Cuba's greatest treasure are its old cars, dating from the 1930s and mostly from the 1950s. These are cars and trucks rarely seen elsewhere in the world except in museums and they are wonderful to see. We rode around town in a 57 Buick convertible, one of the many 'pink ladies' in perfect condition that are commonplace. Third, changing money is easy as long as one avoids official outlets. The formal rate of exchange is 100 pesos to the US dollar, but the real exchange rate is 300 to the dollar, which everyone uses.

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Fourth, there are huge discrepancies in Cuba. Some neighbourhoods are well-maintained, others are crumbling slums. Industry is mostly for local consumption, thanks to unrelenting antagonism from the USA. For example, the USA forbids the sale to Cuba of Asphalt, which is essential for smooth-paved streets and highways. As a result, concrete highways are commonplace and riding on them is like being on a vibrator. Fifth, we found the Cuban people to be exceptionally welcoming, well-dressed, educated, aware of their country's situation, and resolute to be independent.

ITMB publishes four different maps of Cuba: one of the island in its entirety, one of the western portion of the country, another of the eastern portion, and a detailed map of Havana with an inset of Varadero, the main beach resort town. All are available, accurate, and very helpful in finding one's way around a beautiful and peaceful country.

NEW RELEASES AS OF EARLY FEBRUARY, 2025

Fiji and Tonga Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 Scale varies ISBN 9781771292900 UPC 817712929006 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The South Pacific offers a wealth of scenic and interesting countries to visit. Fiji is one of the most popular, consisting of two major islands and dozens of smaller ones. Suva, the capital, is portrayed with a detailed inset map. The southern island of Viti Levu is more popular with tourists, but the more northerly island of Vanua Levu is more relaxing. The second side shows the islands of Tonga. This is less visited than Fiji, just to its west, and consists of dozens of islands and many resort hotels. The capital of Nuku'alofa is small enough to walk everywhere and is the point of embarkation for most of the other islands. Captain Cook landed on tiny Vatoa Island in 1774, and the Bounty visited volcanic Tofua Island in 1789. This is a Pacific paradise! **AVAILABLE**

Geneva & Western Switzerland Travel Reference Map 4th Ed 2025 1:6,500/1:301,000 ISBN 9781771293266 UPC 817712932662 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Geneva is an ancient Swiss town close to the French border, nestled along the edge of Lake Lemman, and is bisected by the Rhone River. The old town is on the left, or lower, bank and is loaded with shops and restaurants. The 'new' town is on the right, or upper, bank and contains the downtown shopping area and the main railway station. The United Nations complex, the Palais des Nations, is a bit of a walk to reach, so fortunately there is a tram that goes right to the gates. The airport is shown at the top of the page. The 2nd side is a new map for us, covering the western half of Switzerland as far as Basle and Luzern, concentrating on the rail network as well as the roads. For example, it shows the rail line to Zermatt, at the base of the Matterhorn. This is a beautiful part of the world to explore! **AVAILABLE**

Uganda Travel Reference Map 8th Ed. 2025 1:600,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771298582 UPC 817712985828 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 - Uganda is one of the most interesting countries in Africa to visit. Side 1 covers the touristic northern half of the country, with Murchison Falls National Park and its many safari lodges dominating. In the far north is Kidepo National Park, wilder and less visited and therefore more pristine. In the east is Mount Elgin. Side 2 is dominated by Kampala, the capital, and is the heartland of the Bugandan people. And Lake Victoria, shared with Neighbouring Tanzania And Kenya. The western part of this side shows the famous Rwenzori Mountains and Queen Elizabeth National Park, home of one of the largest populations of antelope in Africa. Finally, it is the location of Kabala, in the Little Switzerland of Africa. Truly an amazing country to explore! **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES AS OF MID-JANUARY, 2025

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Afghanistan Travel Reference Map, with Turkmenistan 4th Ed. 2020 1:1,650,000 ISBN 9781771299988 UPC 817712979988 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This is not a new title, but is being noted here to fill a stop-gap situation. The map was updated and released in 2020 in combination with Turkmenistan. At the time, American forces were still in Afghanistan, and we had plenty of our unique Afghanistan maps still in print. Then the Americans evacuated rather rapidly, the Afghan government collapsed very rapidly, and the Taliban moved in to fill the political vacuum. Ever since, the country has been difficult to enter. Regardless, a steady demand for maps of the country continues to exist. During December, we sold the last copies of our dedicated country map of Afghanistan and were faced with a dilemma. This is an important country to keep in print, but for now we have no way to accurately update it. As a compromise, we wish all customers to note that ITMB still has a detailed map of the country. It is probably recorded on most computer systems as being on the backside of Turkmenistan, but it is as detailed and up-to-date map of Afghanistan as can be offered at this point in time. It also includes a good inset map of Kabul and another of Kandahar. **AVAILABLE**

Las Vegas and Region Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:40,000/1:800,000 ISBN 9781771294508 UPC 8177129 45082 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Vegas, for short, is the world wrapped into a city dedicated to entertainment. Do you want to see the Statue of Liberty, or a Montgolfier balloon, or the Eiffel Tower? They're all there. So are fireworks displays, dancing fountains, top-rate entertainment, the Cirque de Soleil, and enough gambling casinos to keep the alcohol flowing freely. The 'strip' is centred on the airport and the I-15 motorway, and most visitors don't even realize that this represents only a fraction of Las Vegas' many charms, including the world-class Angel Park golf course, the Nevada State Museum, and the University of Nevada. The reverse side is just as interesting. This regional map links Los Angeles and Phoenix to Las Vegas, and highlights the Mojave Desert, Lake Mead, and the unforgettable Grand Canyon all on one piece of paper. It has dozens of parks and points of interest shown, ranging from the Minnetonka Trading Post to Death Valley. This is truly a user's map. **AVAILABLE**

Manhattan and Region Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:11,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771294942 UPC 817712949424 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – New York City is the largest urban agglomeration in the USA. Manhattan is its centre and its heart. Our map covers the island from Battery Park north to the upper regions of Central Park, with a regional map showing Staten Island, New Jersey, the Bronx, and Long Island's Brooklyn and Queen's urban areas. A Top Attractions and a detailed transit map shows the entire MTA subway system from JFK airport to Newark. The map shows 33 live theatres in the Times Square area, so many that they need to be shown by number instead of name (list provided). The subway lines are all shown as to how they actually run underground, and all major buildings are named. Dozens of hotels are shown, as well as churches, rail stations, the UN complex, China Town, Wall Street, the 9/11 site, all ferry terminals and bridges. Truly magnificent! The reverse side is a regional map of the Northeast Corridor from Boston to Washington, showing major roads and rail lines, several airports, and the states of Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and portions of New York State. This is a new map for ITMB. **AVAILABLE**

Mongolia Travel Reference Map 8th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:800,000 ISBN 9781771294959 UPC 817712949592 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Mongolia is a fascinating country to visit, a bulwark between China and Russia. The eastern half of the country is well-developed and its capital, Ulaan Baatar is a modern city emerging out of a collection of traditional villages. One can fly into the capital or take a train from Beijing, with a change of train at the border which can be amusingly complicated. Regardless, this is a wild and wonderful land full of surprises. Parts of the famous Gobi Desert have been incorporated into park-like 'protected areas, mostly along the border with China, and are difficult to enter, but the Gobi is huge, so ample opportunities to explore it exist. The western portion of Mongolia suffers from poor infrastructure development, mostly roads, so is less developed but more traditional as a result. The map includes a detailed inset map of Ulaan Baatar, the only city of any significance in the country. This is truly an adventure country! **AVAILABLE**

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New Guinea Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:1,650,000 ISBN 9781771295864 UPC 817712958648 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The South Pacific island of New Guinea is divided into two distinct entities. The eastern half is the independent country of Papua New Guinea, with its capital of Port Moresby. It includes several island chains, such as the Bismark Archipelago and the Louisiade Archipelago and is closely associated with Australia, which is immediately to its south. As a result, it is somewhat developed in its infrastructure, although there is no road as yet joining the eastern portion with the central highlands, nor are there any land connections with the western half of the island. This portion is controlled by Indonesia and is known as West Irian (or Irian Jaya), with its major urban area being Sorong, in the far west, with ferry connections to Indonesian islands further to the west. The other major urban area is Jayapura, on the north coast, which also has ferry connections to other parts of Indonesia. Needless to say, the two halves of the island have little to do with each other. Both portions are definitely off-the-beaten-path destinations appealing to adventuresome travellers. **AVAILABLE**

Southern Ontario (or Ontario South half) Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:550,000 ISBN 9781771297363 UPC 817712973634 \$11.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Ontario is one of the largest provinces in Canada, a country where vast distances are taken for granted. The part of the province generally known as Southern Ontario is that portion of this huge geographic area that borders the Great Lakes and is home to the great majority of the population, centred on Toronto, the province's capital and the largest urban area within Canada at four million population. Side 1 concentrates on the south east region fronting on to the USA's Detroit and Cleveland areas and contains such treasures as Point Pelee, which is on the same latitude as northern California, London, with its famous university, Niagara Falls, Toronto itself, and the recreational heartland of Georgian Bay. A detailed inset map of central Toronto is included. Side 2 focusses on historic eastern Ontario, along the shoreline of Lake Ontario to include Kingston, Peterborough, and Ottawa, the nation's capital. This is the portion of the province most easily visited by those from the USA and from Quebec and the Maritime provinces of Canada and provides an easy-to-read road map of the region. Rail connections between Detroit and Toronto and Toronto and points east and north are also clearly shown. A Top Attractions list is included. **AVAILABLE**

Zurich & Northern Switzerland Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:8,000/1:301,000 ISBN 9781771299244 UPC 817712992444 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Surprisingly, although ITMB has included detailed maps of both Geneva and Zurich in its product line for many years, we have not, until now, focused on Switzerland itself as a travel destination. This map is the first of three that will be arriving during 2025, and concentrates on the fabulously interesting city of Zurich and on the northern half of Switzerland. Side 1 is a detailed map of the city surrounding the Zurichsee. The central core is centred on the busy railway station and the Limmat River that bisects the old town centre. This is now largely a pedestrian area and a tref for strolling. Ferry docks along the shoreline provide excursion day-trips as well as working ferries to transport locals to urban areas along the See. Due to its mountainous nature, the city has developed a sophisticated transit system of trams, buses, and rail connections to move people around. We have included an elaborate transit inset map to assist visitors. Zurich is a traveller's delight, with its national museum, the Lindenhof, the Kursthaus, the old churches, and the FIFA museum for soccer fans. Side 2 is a new map for ITMB, covering the northern half of Switzerland from Lausanne to Basel (Basle) to Chur in the far east. The best way to travel around Switzerland is by train, and train lines are clearly shown, as are motorways, main highways, and secondary connecting roads. Switzerland may not be a large country geographically, but it is packed with interesting places to visit, such as Bern, with its enclosed walkways, or Luzern, St. Gallen, or Zug. Watch for other new titles emerging in the near future! **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES TO MID-DECEMBER, 2024

Albania Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:210,000 ISBN9781771290371 UPC 817712903716 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Tiny Albania is one of Europe's hidden treasures. It is a Mediterranean country, like Greece, with lovely beaches and interesting towns. It is moderate politically and religiously. This newly-updated edition has a new cover picture, and a revamped scale of 1:120,000. Side 1 shows the southern half of the country, with detailed inset maps of Berat, Gjirokastra, Korca, and Vlore, while side 2 shows the northern portion, with inset maps of Durres, Shkoder, and Tirane (the capital). **AVAILABLE**

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Dubai & UAE Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 1:14,000/1:700,000 ISBN 9781771292368 UPC 817712923684 \$14.94cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The Arabian Peninsula is changing very rapidly, led by Dubai, an ancient city state that is rapidly becoming a major touristic and business centre. Side one of this edition concentrates on the regional entity known as the United Arab Emirates, from Muscat in the north to the Saudi border in the south. An excellent inset map of Abu Dhabi city centre is included. Side 2 shows Dubai City, with its old town on the right bank of the Khor Dubai and the modern city on the left bank. **AVAILABLE**

Guernsey Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:18,000 ISBN 9781771293938 – see Jersey for description

Jersey & Gurnsey Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:18,000 ISBN 9781771293938 UPC 817712939388 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The Channel Islands are just off the coast of Normandy and are still the possession of the Duke of Normandy, who happens to be King Charles III of Great Britain. They are the only parts of Normandy still in the possession of England. The two main islands are Jersey, with its capital of Saint Helier, and Guernsey, with its capital of Saint Peter. There are several smaller islands – Alderney, Herm, Jethou, and Sark, but the principal touristic destinations are Jersey on side 1 and Guernsey on Side 2. **AVAILABLE**

Portugal Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 1:500,000 ISBN 9781771296359 UPC 817712963598 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – We are very pleased to be able to release a double-sided detailed map of Portugal. Being a long, rather thin country, Side 1 concentrates on Lisbon and the southern half of Portugal with a detailed inset map of Lisbon. It also includes the Spanish provinces of Huelva and Badajoz. Side 2 covers the northern half of the country along with portions of neighbouring Spanish provinces. **AVAILABLE**

Sumatra Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:1,100,000 ISBN 9781771297387 UPC 817712973870 \$14.94cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The Indonesian island of Sumatra is not only the largest portion of this nation of islands, it is also very close to Singapore and Malaysia, so has easy connections to both countries. Side 1 shows the northern portion of Sumatra, with an excellent inset map of Medan, its major city. Several offshore islands are included, as well as a significant Top Attractions list. Side 2 shows the bulk of the island as well as a portion of southern Malaysia, Singapore, and various islands in the vicinity. **AVAILABLE**

Syria Travel Reference Map (with Jordan) 4th Ed. 2024 1:825,000 (inset of Damascus at 1:8,700) ISBN 9781771293921 UPC 817712939210 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – This 4th edition map came out earlier in 2024 and is repeated here as a result of the recent overthrow of the government of Syria by a coalition of rebel forces. As this is written, it is only a few hours after rebel forces seized Damascus and the country's dictator fled with Russian assistance. Once the immediate euphoria dissipates, whoever eventually emerges as the new leader of the country will have his hands full. So will the leaders of surrounding countries. **AVAILABLE**

Tokyo & Kanto/Chubu Regions Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:14,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781771298094 UPC 817712980946 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Tokyo is one of the largest and most complex cities in the world. As the capital of Japan and close to the international airports of Narita and Haneda, it is the entry point for most visitors to Japan. As well, it is an interesting city and a historic centre, full of touristic sites well-worth a visit, fabulous shopping experiences, and a transit network that is very easy to use. Our map covers the touristic centre of a vast urban complex, from Shinjuku in the west to Asakusa in the east and from the Ginza north to Ikebukuro. The streets, rail lines, and rapid transit lines are all shown, as well as a large inset map showing the many transit rail options throughout the Tokyo region. Side 2 of the map is actually an excellent regional map of central Japan, centred on the Tokyo urban agglomeration. **AVAILABLE**

Uruguay & Montevideo Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2025 1:770,000/1:10,000 ISBN 9781771298599 UPC 817712985996 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The South American country of Uruguay is popular touristically. Side 1 covers the city of Montevideo, the capital, from the harbour to the Tres Cruces shopping area and international bus terminal. The Ciudad Viejo (old town) is close to the ferry terminal linking the city to Buenos Aires, in Argentina. It is also the focal point of interest for visitors. The adjacent Centro is the main shopping/entertainment focal point for the city and the location of most of the hotels. Side 2 shows the entire country, with its connections to Brasil, Buenos Aires, and central Argentina Uruguay has a very sophisticated roadway network (unfortunately, no trains) and is a haven of stability in a continent that all too often seems somewhat volatile. **AVAILABLE**

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USA Southwest States Travel Reference Map 4th Ed 2023 on waterproof paper 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771298551 UPC 817712985514 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – The three southwestern states of the USA are extremely popular travel destinations. California (south of Sacramento), Nevada, and Arizona are home to some fifty million residents and the location of many of the best-known travel destinations in the world. One just has to mention Hollywood, Disneyland, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Tucson, or Yosemite and realize that all of these wonderful places to see are on one map to realize why this map is so popular. This particular edition came out some time ago. When it arrived in our warehouse, we still had enough inventory of the previous edition to last us a couple of months. **AVAILABLE**

Whistler and Region Travel Reference Map 9th Ed. 2025 1:50,000/1:250,000 ISBN 9781771299039 UPC 817712990396 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This most recent edition of one of North America's most popular winter resort ski towns has a slight change of name from its previous edition. The Sea to Sky Highway proved to be a name known only locally, so we have generalized the title to focus on the principal destination, Whistler itself. The Whistler/Blackcomb mountain complex was the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics and has only grown in size and range of activities since then. Side 1 concentrates on the Whistler reality in a series of insets, one showing the Sea to Sky Highway from Vancouver to the town, another the village (really a town) itself, a new bike park that has been recently expanded, and the ski areas that are adjacent to the town. The hiking areas close to Garibaldi Lake are also shown. **AVAILABLE**

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